

**Regular Meeting**  
Town of Cooleemee  
January 27, 2025

**Absent:** Comm Almond  
Comm Tippett

### Minutes

(open session)

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Mayor Smith gave the Invocation.

Mayor Smith led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Smith welcomed a room full of attendees.

Commissioner Reavis ask to add Wall St. resurface to the agenda at Old Business C

The Clerk ask to add Budget Amendment to New Business A-3

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to adopt the amended agenda along with the consent agenda which includes a financial report, and minutes from the 12-16-24 meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Ferrell; motion caried (3-0)

Public Comment saw 2 folks speak, Ms. Linda Bourne spoke on dogs being tied up with no food and water, and Homelessness in the area is a real concern and hopes to see further assistance in that area.

Jonathan Vizard spoke of a neighboring house that has been a concern for years. New plastics have been placed around the fencing and car ports he doesn't feel enough is being done about this property hopes to get a resolution soon as the dog mess is very harsh.

The River Park year-end report was delivered by Theresa Bivins the park saw 40K plus visitor's gate fees the past year has really helped give the park a new look as well as give it a proper staff to keep up with maintenance issues that may arise. Grant Funding has created new trails that offered picnic tables, shelters, restroom revamps, and several floods this year have recked havoc and burdened the Park with litter, trees, and sand. Most sand gets removed or relocated and the debris gets removed but all of these comes as well at a cost. Current Hours again are Friday thru Sunday 10AM-4PM through March.

Law Enforcement had 466 logged hours with 78 calls mostly from Traffic or random Checks, for the year the Sheriff Dept. logged 5744 hours or about 478/month averaging 1.5 calls/day.

The Clerk updated the board all end of the year reports were complete, W-2s, 1099s, tax reports etc., he was emailed by LGC to perform a 6-month review and submit he did that review and was awaiting confirmation if we passed that OK. Mentioned the Storage Building was ready for removal, he had it cleaned out placing all street signs, posts, etc. in the storage attached to the restrooms, as it was much easier to access that without driving down to the building. Also, all paperwork once stored in the building was now in the Police Building along with Holiday Décor.

The Mayor is working on an end of the year newsletter, we hope to get out soon, Still working with Code Enforcement on Ordinances, a few things are still being updated but bare wit us as we all try to work through this. Still working as well to update the Handbook. The Mayor wants to be more engaged in 2025 to attend other meetings, stay up to date on all happenings in the County in hopes of utilizing items to benefit the Town. Also wants to consider performing a work session each month prior to the regular meeting to be able to discuss upcoming items, prepare the agenda and have any questions gone over and discuss then prolonging regular meetings for items that may have multiple questions from the Board.

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to allow \$1500.00 to aid with the storage building relocation to the River Park. The Clerk added he had contacted Josph and Ben Crotts about removing the building if the River Park couldn't use it, that cost was estimated at \$1500 so that is why he proposed that number to the board to assist.

Seconded by Commissioner Ferrell; motion carried (3-0)

The Community Center needs a location set soon so design can begin, and the project can get off the ground, it sounds like the proposed relocation of the tennis courts id off the table, other locations are at the Horseshoe Pits, at the top end of the Playground, at the Bathhouse site, or up the hill between the cook shack and Zachary House.

Commissioner Reavis discussed Wall St. resurface and holes needed patched, the Clerk asked how much the Town had to repair verses the DOT it was thought Town had most of the coverage the Clerk disputed this slightly stating as the Town does not have any houses within Town limits on Wall St. the following morning the Clerk provided a map to DOT showing the Town had about 100 feet of the responsibility.

Mayor Smith wanted the clerk to look at other options for the software before deciding on rather to stay with CitiPak and Southern Software. The clerk stated we were on a waiting list for the other main software company just to get information and have not heard back from them in almost a year. He was comfortable with Southern, and they did have another software available called Financial Management that was more complex than CitiPak and offered many more items that we may not need. But he would certainly investigate those. Also, some concern about the way the software was potentially manipulated in the past, the clerk said again any system and software can be tampered with its just very important to trust the folks running and be educated on how to look at things as well.

Motion made by Commissioner Ferrell to stay with Word Master Media for Website and Email support for the same rate as the previous year at \$400.00/month.

Seconded by Commissioner Reavis; motion carried (3-0)

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to accept a Budget Amendment submitted by the Finance Officer to relocate \$12,030.00 from 10-999-01Contengency to the following areas, \$2500.00 to 10-420-06 Health Insurance, \$9000.00 to 10-420-80 Maintenance/Repairs, \$530.00 10-600-13 Rec Utilities.

Seconded by Commissioner Ferrell; motion carried (3-0)

The board tables a Code Ordinance provided by ACE for a property deemed unlivable.

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to allow Oneal Lawn Care to remove some gravel, dirt, and debris on Duke St. left over from several floods this year for \$200.00.

Seconded by Commissioner Ferrell; motion carried (3-0)

Mayor Smith spoke on several sign ideas including some directional signs for the Town Hall, Zachary House, Park, etc. Perhaps adding directional sign for Jockey to aid in preventing trucks from entering our small streets that are not built for such weight, and a sign on the back of the new Welcome Sign at Watt St. as it just looks bear with all the white on the back of the sign. The board was OK with maybe a green sign on the back simply displaying the Town Seal.

Motion by Commissioner Reavis to Adjourn meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Ferrell; motion carried (3-0)

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Mayor, Jeff Smith

Clerk, Steven Corriher